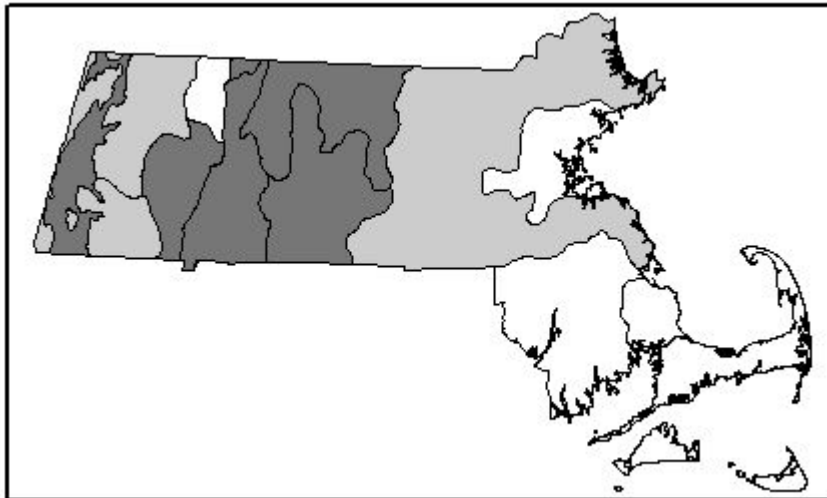


Community Name: HICKORY - HOP HORNBEAM FOREST / WOODLAND

Community Code: CT1B2B1000

SRANK: S2



Concept: Mixed hardwood, open forests with a sparse shrub layer. A nearly continuous cover of graminoids includes a rich diversity of herbaceous flora.

Environmental Setting: Occurrences of the community are usually small (a few acres), on thin, well drained soils, generally in midslope on southern or eastern exposures below balds and rock outcrops on traprock ridges. The community occurs as pockets separated by oak forests growing on deeper, moister soils in erosion channels. There is great variation in environmental conditions among sites.

Vegetation Description: Hickory - hop hornbeam communities are fairly open forests dominated by a variable mixture of hardwoods, including sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Shagbark, pignut and Sweet pignut hickories (*Carya ovata*, *C. glabra*, and *C. ovalis*), and Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) as a regular and abundant subcanopy tree. The forest floor is characteristically covered by Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), other sedges (such as *C. pedunculata* and *C. laxiflora*), and grasses such as bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*), Poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*) and the non-native Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), with scattered violets (*Viola triloba*), hepaticas (*Hepatica nobilis* var. *obtusa*), and several species of tick-trefoils (including *Desmodium glutinosum* and *D. paniculatum*).

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: These are small community occurrences, and tend to be part of the habitat of species using the surrounding forests. Species of dry sites are most likely to occur in the community occurrences.

Associated Rare Plants:

OXALIS VIOLACEA	VIOLET WOOD-SORREL	T
POA LANGUIDA	DROOPING SPEARGRASS	E
SPHENOPHOLIS NITIDA	SHINING WEDGEGRASS	T

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Joseph Skinner State Park, Hadley; Mount Holyoke Range State Park, Amherst; Mt. Toby, Sunderland; Wachusett Meadow WS (MAS), Princeton.

Threats:

Management Needs:

From: Swain, P.C. & J.B. Kearsley. 2001. Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts. Version 1.3. Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Westborough, MA.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Carya (glabra, ovata)- Fraxinus americana- Quercus (alba, rubra) Forest Alliance -- Carya (glabra, ovata)- Ostrya virginiana/ Carex pensylvanica Forest [CEGL006301].

MA (old name): SNE DRY RICH FOREST - Hickory - hop hornbeam forest variant.

ME: Not described.

NH: Related to : Dry Appalachian oak- hickory- forest, Rich Appalachian oak- hickory talus forest Woodlands; and Dry red oak-ironwood/sedge variant of Dry acidic oak-(hickory)-pine types.

VT: Within: Dry oak- hickory-hop-hornbeam.

NY: Within: Appalachian oak-hickory forest.

CT: Similar to: Carya glabra- Fraxinus americana/ Carex pensylvanica Community.

RI: Within Oak - Hickory Forest.

Weatherbee: An association within Dry Calcareous Oak / Conifer Forest Community

Author: P. Swain **Date:** 8/10/99